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### Indian depredations. Memorial of legislature of Territory of New Mexico

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#### Recommended Citation

H.R. Misc. Doc. No. 38, 35th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1859)

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NEW MEXICO—INDIAN DEPREDATIONS.

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MEMORIAL

OF THE

TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE OF NEW MEXICO,

IN REGARD TO

*Indian depredations.*

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JANUARY 24, 1859.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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MEMORIAL of the legislative assembly of the council and house of representatives of the Territory of New Mexico.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America in Congress assembled:*

Your memorialists, the council and house of representatives of the Territory of New Mexico, with due respect represent: That for the last three or four sessions of the legislative assembly, and in almost all of them since the organization of this Territory, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, as a Territory, in the year 1850, petitions, resolutions, and memorials have been here drawn up and sent to the Congress, touching the depredations that the savage Indians have committed within the borders of our Territory since we have become a part of the United States; therefore, we again represent that the property stolen, the lives lost, and the children of our citizens captivated by these Indians, that were under a treaty of peace with the United States, have been enormous up to the present time, and, according to appearances, they are to become no less in future; and although there exists a law passed by the Congress of the United States, defining the mode by which the claims for said robberies and depredations shall be presented, that they may be paid; and although it is provided in the treaty of peace between the United States and the republic of Mexico that the government of the United States shall defend each and every citizen of the said United States against these savage Indians, and shall indemnify them for all the robberies and depredations of said Indians; and although claims have been pre-

sented to the superintendent of Indian affairs of many thousands of dollars, value of property stolen by these Indians up to the present time, not one cent has been paid to the parties interested, who have thus been despoiled of their property. The reason given by the agents in Washington to the parties interested in this Territory, in a majority of cases, is sometimes in the want of sufficient proof in the documents forwarded, and at other times in the petition to the superintendent of Indian affairs in this Territory. Such is the result that when the agents present these claims to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington they are told that these claims have been referred to the Secretary of the Interior; at the office of the Secretary of the Interior they are told that these claims have been sent to Congress; and in Congress they are told that these claims have been referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs; and there the agent is informed that they might recommend a committee to investigate said claims, to take the evidence and proof in their case; and thus it is that eight years have passed away without a single case being adjudicated in such mode that the interested party can receive indemnity for the losses which he has suffered at the hands of these Indians: Therefore—

Your memorialists pray your honorable bodies for the passage of a law creating a commission, in this Territory, for the purpose of taking the testimony which our citizens may present with respect to the losses suffered by them on account of the depredations committed by these Indians, and to recommend to the general government what shall appear to them just in relation to said claims. One of the causes of the loss of much of the stolen property in this Territory is the prohibition that exists in the intercourse law with them, that the citizens cannot prosecute nor take vengeance for the robbery committed without losing all right to reclaim the value of the property stolen of the general government. Strange and highly compromising position, that our property should thus be held up by the government, our citizens remain in an uncertain state, and the Indians remain unpunished with the robbery, to the great prejudice of our citizens and the general government: Therefore—

Your memorialists respectfully pray your honorable bodies that such amendments may be made to the intercourse law with the Indians as may be necessary, so that the inhabitants of this Territory may pursue these Indians, to recapture their property stolen by them, and to chastise them for the robbery, without losing the right to their claim upon the general government, in case they cannot retake the property stolen from our citizens by these Indians; as also that a law may be passed establishing said commission in this Territory to investigate such claims; and that our delegate in Congress is requested to call the attention of Congress to this subject. And your memorialists will ever pray.

JOSÉ GUADALUPE GONZALES,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
LAFAYETTE HEAD,  
*President of the Council.*

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }  
Territory of New Mexico. }

I, Alexander M. Jackson, secretary of the said Territory, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and perfect copy of the translation of the original memorial as filed in my office.

[SEAL.] Witness my hand and the seal of my office, at Santa Fé, this 23d day of December, 1858.

A. M. JACKSON,  
*Secretary of the Territory of New Mexico.*